Annual Report

1988-89

VOLUNTARY PLANNING

The Mission of Voluntary Planning

To provide for the effective involvement of the non-government sector in planning for development.

Objectives

- To facilitate the identification of problems by the non-government sector and to relate appropriate private and public resources in an attempt to solve these problems.
- To involve the non-government sector in the analysis of government planning proposals during the process of their development and prior to final approval.

Voluntary Planning is a voluntary association of non-government individuals and groups, staffed and funded by the Government of Nova Scotia, that operates at arms length from government to promote sustainable development.

Logo

The cover shows Voluntary Planning's new logo.

The map of the Province superimposed over a gradually ascending bar chart represents Voluntary Planning's commitment to the increased well being and prosperity of Nova Scotians. Executed in earthy bronze, it is a reminder of the common ground and common purpose we share.

Annual Report

1988-89

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Member:

This has been a dynamic year for Voluntary Planning -- one comprised of promising beginnings and expectations.

The investment that we as an organization have made in a process of renewal has already begun and continues to pay dividends.

Our new and streamlined Board, although in its infancy, has already dealt effectively with some important and challenging issues over the last year.

Government has sought the services of Voluntary Planning in an enthusiastic and gratifying manner.

We are again at the threshold of making an important contribution to a long term strategic plan for the Province of Nova Scotia, as we did twice before in 1963-65 and again in 1978-84. This is an important partnership with the Department of Industry, Trade and Technology and representatives of other government departments, that will call for the participation of virtually every sector and committee of Voluntary Planning. Our unusual capacity, as an organization, for generating consensus as well as the broad experience and imagination of our members are important assets we bring to the table in this process.

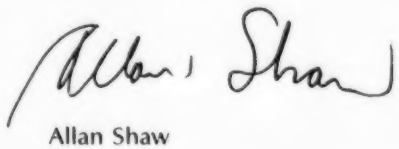
In this landmark year Voluntary Planning has a new logo which will serve to identify our organization and its mission. It represents, I think, the stature that Voluntary Planning has reached as well as the optimism with which it approaches its task. Our thanks to the Department of Government Services, particularly Pat Johnson and her staff for providing us with this new visual identity.

It is with considerable regret that I note the leaving of Voluntary Planning's Vice-Chairman of 8 years, Mr. Pat Ellis. Pat has always given freely to the organization of his time and experience and I know I speak for all of Voluntary Planning in extending our sincere appreciation for his important contribution and wish him well in his further endeavours.

Our first year in the Joseph Howe Building under the administrative mantle of the Department of Small Business Development has been a productive and useful one. It has proven that with mutual respect and understanding Voluntary Planning's unusual position "in" government but not "of" government with its need for an arms-length relationship to its benefactor can be maintained without fear of compromise. Our appreciation and congratulations to Minister Ken Streatch and thanks to Deputy Minister Ann Janega who have recognized this need and demonstrated their support.

This has been an exciting year with the promise of an increasingly vital and important role for Voluntary Planning in the years to come.

I congratulate all our volunteers on their commitment and enthusiasm and look forward to a busy and productive year ahead.



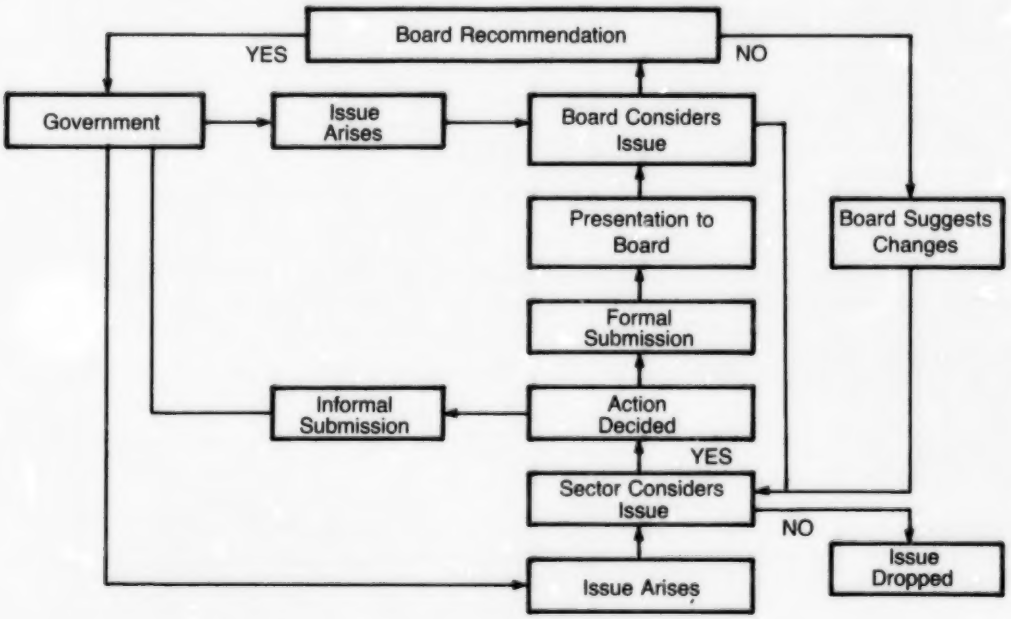
Allan Shaw

ABOUT VOLUNTARY PLANNING

In 1963, as the importance of planning to economic development was emerging, the Government of Nova Scotia sought to ensure that when government did plan it would do so with the benefit of the imagination and experience of the non-government, private sector.

To accomplish this it created an independent, arms-length agency within government: one that would provide volunteer committees representing each sector of the economy an opportunity to evaluate and advise on policy matters, and to implement measures for development within the private sector. Voluntary Planning is managed overall by a Board of Sector Chairmen and Members-at-Large.

THE VOLUNTARY PLANNING PROCESS — HOW IT WORKS



Today Voluntary Planning's interests span the social, economic and environmental as it works to promote sustainable development in the province.

It has responded to many major Provincial and Federal Royal Commissions; it has proposed, reviewed and suggested amendments, where appropriate, to most significant pieces of legislation since 1963 and authored several hundred reports contributing to balanced and responsible development. Voluntary

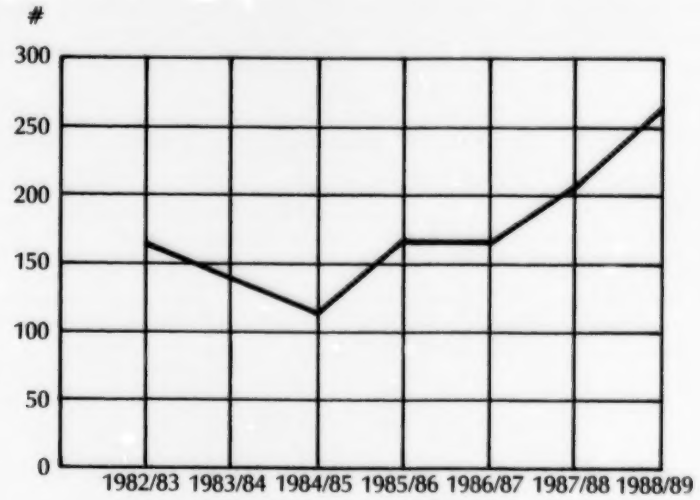
Planning has also given life to a number of agencies such as Clean Nova Scotia Foundation, the Arson Prevention Council of Nova Scotia, Economic Developers of Nova Scotia and others.

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Voluntary Planning are appointed by the Province of Nova Scotia. All members are volunteers.

Voluntary Planning has both a direct and structured relationship with the Premier and Members of Cabinet and also maintains an ongoing, functional relationship with line departments at the sectoral level.

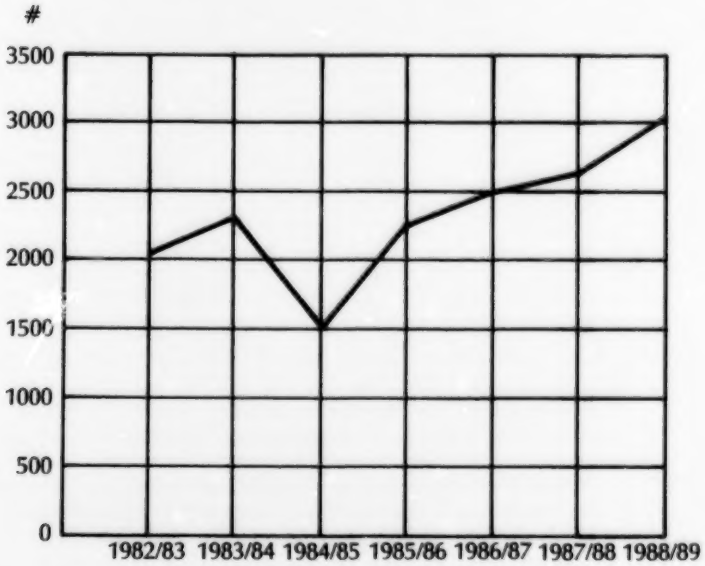
VOLUNTARY PLANNING

Total Meetings



VOLUNTARY PLANNING

Total Attendees



THE 25 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

To recognize this landmark 25th year of Voluntary Planning a special celebration was held in conjunction with last year's annual meeting on November 2, at the Hotel Nova Scotian.

Former Federal Leader of the Opposition, Premier of Nova Scotia, and one of the creators of Voluntary Planning, the Honourable Robert Stanfield spoke to a large and enthusiastic audience about the vision which first gave the organization form and purpose. With eloquence he noted how the vision had grown to keep pace with changing times.

Kristin Shannon, a well known economist and Chairman of the Canadian Trend Report spoke about future trends that would have a significant impact on the economy in Nova Scotia. All of those trends pointed toward the need for increased non-government sector participation in the planning process and the development of consensus among divergent interests.

Members of long standing (15 years or more) were awarded certificates of recognition for their contributions by the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Hon. John Buchanan. As well, appreciation and certificates of recognition were awarded to a number of outgoing Board members and chairmen.

A panel of speakers chaired by Prof. Walter Kontak, representing the three constituencies of Voluntary Planning-Business, Mr. Sandy Archibald; Labour, Mr. Bruce MacDonald; and Government, Mr. Bob Geraghty addressed issues that challenge Voluntary Planning as it confronts a rapidly changing and dynamic future for Nova Scotia.

A common theme was shared by those who spoke at the 25 Year celebrations — Mr. Stanfield, Premier Buchanan and Kristin Shannon and Mr. Allan Shaw, Voluntary Planning Chairman: a recognition of the growing demand for Voluntary Planning's services in the years ahead and the increased role it must play in the lives of Nova Scotians. In large measure the events of 1988-89 have given substance to these predictions.

As part of the 25 Year celebrations a history of Voluntary Planning was published with the assistance of the Department of Government Services.

A 25 Year Committee chaired by Dr. George Holbrook was struck to organize the celebrations and to advise Tony Lamport, author of the book entitled "Common Ground." The Chairman and 25 Year Committee made a valuable contribution to all aspects of the 25 Year celebrations.

Many individuals contributed to the book to make it a success, either directly in the form of written or spoken material or indirectly in the form of research and ideas.

The book was launched on December 6, 1988 in a ceremony held in the Red Room of Province House. The Premier presented special edition copies of the book to the 25 Year Committee members and to the author.

In response to a number of requests Voluntary Planning's history has been sent to institutions across the country. Its title suggests the goal of a meaningful and functional consensus both within Voluntary Planning and the province as well as the common ground on which we all work and live.

This chronicle of Voluntary Planning's endeavors continues to be a part of its renewal and evolution as an organization.

A TRIBUTE TO J. R. "PAT" ELLIS

Mr. Pat Ellis will be resigning the position of Vice-Chairman he has held with Voluntary Planning since 1981, effective May 24, 1989.

His distinguished contribution to Voluntary Planning has included service on the Human Resources Sector, the Employment Committee, the original CORE Committee and the Voluntary Planning Executive Committee since he first joined the organization in 1976.

In 1985 he served as the overall Chairman for the Provincial Conference on the Economy.

We take this opportunity to thank Pat for his years of service and commitment to the people of Nova Scotia and wish him well for the future.

BOARD SECTOR AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Voluntary Planning Board

Chairman — Allan Shaw

- approval of the 1988-89 Operational Plan given.
- report of the Nominating Committee supported.
- Environment and Economy Breakfast with National Task Force on Environment and Economy held.
- a Free Trade Business Opportunities Conference was conducted.
- Voluntary Planning moved to Joseph Howe Building.
- Voluntary Planning's 25th Year celebration held with guest speaker the Hon. Robert L. Stanfield.
- appointment of a new Executive Committee.
- Board orientation session
- release of "Common Ground" — a book about Voluntary Planning's 25 year history.
- Special Committee on Free Trade, Research Strategy approved.
- response was made to the Environmental Assessment Act and Regulations first Draft.

Executive Committee

Chairman — Allan Shaw

- Board membership review — formation of Nominating Committee
- Voluntary Planning "By-Laws and Memorandum of Operations"
- Nominating Committee Report
- response to draft "Environmental Assessment Act and Regulations"
- re-draft of job descriptions
- review of "Common Ground".
- approved the update of Voluntary Planning brochure
- approved Health Care Sector brief presented to Royal Commission
- approved Voluntary Planning Annual Report format (1987-88)
- approved 1988-89 Operational Plan

- approved request to participate in White Paper update
- 25th Anniversary Event
- Launching of "Common Ground"
- Voluntary Planning Open House
- orientation session for Board Members
- presentation to Deputy Ministers on Voluntary Planning
- presentation to Institute of Public Administrators of Canada on Voluntary Planning
- Mr. Shaw and Mr. Ellis met with Premier to review Voluntary Planning work
- new expanded Executive met 13 February 1989

Nominating Committee

Chairman: Hugh Fairn (until 2 November 1988)
Jerry Amirault (until 24 May 1989)

- Nominating Committee consisting of Hugh Fairn, Jerry Amirault, Rene Quigley, and Elizabeth Mills established in March 1988 to review Board composition and recruitment needs
- the Committee consulted with Sector Chairmen, members and staff in preparing a set of "By-laws and Memorandum of Operations"
- the Nominating Committee presented the "By-Laws and Memorandum of Operations", as well as a three-year plan to stagger Board turnover at the 1988 Annual Meeting (2 November 1988). The Nominating Committee report and nominations of new members was unanimously approved.
- the Nominating Committee received and put forth nominations to the Executive Committee. These nominations were approved at the January 1989 Board meeting.
- the Nominating Committee coordinated the preparation of a Board orientation and orientation manual
- Jerry Amirault, Fern Tardif, and Elizabeth Mills appointed to prepare Nominating Committee report for 1989 Annual Meeting

Agriculture

Chairman — Peter Wile

- research begun on an Animal Welfare Position Paper
- recommendations made regarding Pest Control Products Regulations and the inclusion of primary producers representation on Premier's Free Trade Advisory Committee

Community Development

Chairman — Heather Williams

- hosted a one-day Community Economic Development Encounter to facilitate input from non-government sector to government Community Economic Development policy initiatives

Construction Sector

Co-Chairmen — Murray Nicoll and Fern Tardif

- workshop co-sponsored with Human Resources Sector on the Apprenticeship Training Act and Regulations and submission of report to Department of Advanced Education and Job Training.
- recommendation to Department of Advanced Education and Job Training to form a Construction Industry Advisory Committee
- development and publication of, "Construction Strategy 2000"
- co-effort on a study, Nova Scotia Construction Centre, with Design and Construction Institute.
- an industry wide conference to form a Construction Industry Development Council for Nova Scotia (CIDCONS)

Economic Developers Association of Nova Scotia

President — Frank Anderson

- recommended a needs assessment survey of all Industrial Commissions.
- recommended changes to the Industrial Commission Support Program
- held information meetings with staff of ACOA and Department of Industry, Trade and Technology's Industrial Promotion Branch.
- undertook initiatives to increase association membership

Economic Strategy Development Committee (CORE)

Chairman — John Dick

- recommendation made that an update of the "White Paper on Economic Development-Building Competitiveness" be undertaken
- Cabinet approval was sought and received by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Technology to proceed with an economic strategy for Nova Scotia in partnership with Voluntary Planning's CORE Committee which will coordinate private sector involvement in the process
- round-table meetings held to explore the issues of critical concern to Nova Scotia. These identified key theme areas to be developed further

Energy

Chairman — Gary Croswell

- provided response to first draft of "Environmental Assessment Act"
- carried out research, received many presentations and prepared briefs on all aspects of Energy in Nova Scotia in anticipation of the Sector's update on the "Energy Update — 1995"

E & E

Co-Chairmen — Ray Cote and Robbie Shaw

- projects in progress include development of Environmental Code of Practice for Industry; economic incentives for Environmental Management; Case Studies of Coastal Water Quality
- reviewed Environmental Assessment Regulations
- reviewed and made recommendations on Government Action Plan
- participated in planning group for provincial conference on the environment

Fisheries

Chairman — Bob MacClure

- made response to Environmental Assessment Act Regulations
- recommended that bilge containers be placed on all wharves
- expressed concern to the Minister of Fisheries that the shipping of whole fish to the United States was contributing significantly to the decline of the fishing industry in Nova Scotia.
- circulated a questionnaire to all fish plants in Nova Scotia regarding the average number of weeks worked in 1988 and the amount expected in 1989, and have held meetings to analyse the results

Forestry

Chairman — Diana Blenkhorn

- reviewed the Environmental Assessment Act and Regulations
- thoroughly reviewed the Department of Lands and Forests' draft manual of Forest/Wildlife Guidelines for Nova Scotia and submitted their findings

- Pensions/Taxation sub-committee was established with a mandate to determine the effects of the Federal Pension and Income Tax policies on small forest owners

- with the cooperation of the Department of Lands and Forests, the Sector began a comprehensive review of implementation in the past, present, and future of the New Forest Policy for Nova Scotia

- recommendations made to Hon. Frank Oberle, Federal Minister of Forestry seeking his support for the enactment of a new Canada/Nova Scotia Forestry Agreement

- a report entitled, "Issues to Consider in the Development of a New Forest Resource Development Agreement" presented to the Minister of Lands and Forests

Health Care

Chairman — Jerry Amirault

- brief to the Royal Commission on Health submitted

- work session with Royal Commission held

- briefing held with new Minister, Hon. David Nantes, Department of Health and Fitness

- review of submissions to the Royal Commission

- meeting with Taxation Sector to discuss Health Care costs

- effective working relationships have been established among members of the Sector and the appropriate government departments and agencies

Human Resources

Chairman — Bill Skrynsky

- Sector report entitled, "An Examination of Technical Change in Nova Scotia" completed

- a recommendation on the "Financing of Post Secondary Education" submitted to the Board of Voluntary Planning

- after conducting a survey of all farm equipment dealers in Nova Scotia, a recommendation was made that a certified Farm Equipment Mechanic Trade be established under the Apprenticeship and Trades Qualifications Act

- a workshop was co-sponsored by the Construction and Human Resources Sectors, involving all apprenticeship trades designed to provide input to the general and specific trade regulations prior to proclamation of the Act

- Sector representatives met with the Minister's Education Advisory Committee on the Public School Program and submitted their suggestions

- Members of the Sector met with the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education regarding Co-op Education

LRCC

Chairman — Donald Duncan

- issued an updated "Your Land, My Land, Our Land" poster and guide to 500 grade 4 teachers with cooperation of Nova Scotia School Board Association and the Department of Education

- began production of a Hazardous Chemical education program for grades 4 and 6

- began production of a "Waste Management in Schools" brochure

- transferred the Conservation Development sub-committee of LRCC underneath the umbrella of the Environment and Economy Sector

- chairman presented a summary review of all LRCC outstanding recommendations to the Premier with respect to Abandoned Rail Lines, Occupiers Liability and Land Registration

- a meeting was held with the Hon. Terence Donahoe concerning the status of a comprehensive Occupiers Liability Act

- in cooperation with the Clean NS Foundation, Scott Paper Co. Ltd., Bowater Mersey Co. Ltd. and Olands Ltd. provided financial support for the Nova Scotia Wildlife Federation's project to circulate 50,000 garbage bags to licensed hunters

- a report was produced by the Land Use/Management sub-committee including 17 recommendations designed to support the wise use and maintenance of the province's resources

- LRCC prepared supporting arguments for Voluntary Planning's six recommendations concerning the disposition and use of abandoned rail lines in Nova Scotia

- reviewed Environmental Assessment Act and Regulations

- reviewed Abandoned Rail Lines Regulations with Minister and Deputy of Department of Lands and Forests and representatives from Depts. of Tourism and Health and Fitness

- reviewed Occupier Liability recommendations with Deputy Attorney General

- Share the Land Week, a project of LRCC, was proclaimed by the Premier in September. In conjunction with this, a sub-committee on Acid Rain was established, and a variety of public relations activities were carried out to promote responsible land use

Manufacturing

Chairman — Len Perry (until March 1989)

- for the most part, the Manufacturing Sector has been inactive over the 1988-89 period although the South Shore and the Cape Breton Segments have met
- the Voluntary Planning Board approved a proposal to establish a small organizing committee to examine the need for a Manufacturing Sector within Voluntary Planning and, if appropriate, prepare a strategy to revitalize the Sector. Mr. Gordon Jones and Mr. Jim Sapp have agreed to complete the review by May 1989.

Mineral Resources

Chairman — Greg Isenor

- this Sector is presently being reactivated

Professional Services Industry

Chairman — Hugh Vincent

- made policy recommendations on Contracting Out
- recommendation made that the Province of Nova Scotia undertake the continuation of services offered by the Land Resources Information Services
- Sector review was accomplished through a mini "On-Site" analysis
- met with Hon. D. Cameron regarding Contracting Out policy recommendations

R & D

Chairman — Arthur Sager

- review of Provincial Centres of Excellence Program
- recommendations made regarding a technology strategy
- founded Nova Scotia Society for Academic and Industrial Liaison (SAIL). SAIL provides an informal forum which brings scientists and researchers from university and government laboratories together with business people currently sponsoring research activities and/or those who could be using our vast research resource in the future. The dinner meetings are informal and open to anyone with an interest in the use of technology and research and development, and listening to speakers of world class calibre. To date, 3 events were held and the guest speakers were:

Dr. W. A. Cochrane-President, Connaught Laboratories Limited

Dr. H. Shimizu-Technology Advisor, ORTECH International

Mr. R. J. Daniel-Managing Director of Warship Design Services, VSEL plc.

Special Committee on Free Trade Adjustment

Chairman — Sandy Archibald

- Free Trade Business Opportunities Conference (Co-Chairman S. Archibald)
- research: Free Trade Adjustment (research report presented at May Board meeting)
- brief to the Nova Scotia Adjustment Advisory Council
- preparations underway for a second, more indepth research project analyzing adjustment needs on a sectoral basis
- Mr. Archibald hosted a luncheon on 13 March 1989. Invitations were extended to representatives of organizations currently working on Free Trade Adjustment. The purpose of the meeeting was for participants to share information on their organization's current and planned activities on Free Trade Adjustment

Taxation

Chairman — Ed Harris

- met with:
  - Hon. George Moody regarding program review process
  - Hon. Greg Kerr regarding the 1989 Provincial Budget, Deficit Management and Sales Tax reform
  - Hon. Terry Donahoe regarding spending control and program review
  - Transportation Sector regarding Sales Tax reform
  - Representatives of Voluntary Planning Health Care Sector to stress the need to address the costs of health care
- submitted recommendation to Premier and appropriate Minister requesting an immediate freeze and as soon as possible a phasing out of the inclusion of Machinery and Equipment Tax in assessment for Property Tax purposes

Tourism

Chairman — Paul Moore

- reviewed the effectiveness of the Sector
- prepared an internal report to restructure and reorganize the Sector
- carried out reorganization of Sector
- made a response to the Provincial Report on "Roadside Rest Areas"
- provided input regarding the draft "Environmental Assessment Act and Regulations"
- the Sector is currently inactive; however, the Restructuring Planning Committee is working towards a one-day symposium and reactivating the Sector by the fall of 1989

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks are extended to the following people for their contributions to Voluntary Planning:

Members of Longstanding

GORDON BANKS
EWART BLANCHARD
DAVID BURCHELL
ROBERT CAMERON
RAYMOND CARMAN
ROBERT COCKS
LESTER CORKUM
JOHN DECHMAN
JOHN DICKEY
DAN EISENHAUER
J.R. ELLIS
HUGH FAIRN
HOWARD FULLER
RUTH GOLDBLOOM
THOMAS GUILDFORD
RUSSELL HARRINGTON
DEAN HENNIGAR
GEORGE HOLBROOK
ROBERT KILLAM
WALTER KONTAK
DAVID LARGE
ISOBEL MACAULAY-JONES
ALFRED SCOTHORN
CLARY WEBBER
WALTER WEBBER
SHERMAN ZWICKER

Outgoing Chairmen

TERRY CLAYTON
ROBERT COCKS
HUGH FAIRN
GEORGE HOLBROOK
HECTOR JACQUES
DAVID LARGE
BERT MACNABB
LEN PERRY

Outgoing Board Members

EWART BLANCHARD
ERNEST CADEGAN
ROBERT CAMERON
CLAIR CALLAGHAN
HUGH FAIRN
HOWARD FULLER
DEAN HENNIGAR

GEORGE HOLBROOK
ROSS ISENOR
SUSAN JACKSON
ROBERT KILLAM
WALTER KONTAK
DAVID LARGE
ISOBEL MACAULAY-JONES
KEN PETRIE
RENE QUIGLEY
DENNIS ROGERS
WAYNE THORBOURNE

VP Board Members

Mr. Allan C. Shaw
Chairman of VP Board

Mr. J. R. (Pat) Ellis
Vice Chairman –
Voluntary Planning Board

Mr. G. A. Amirault
Chairman – Health Care Sector

Mr. Sandy L. Archibald, Chairman –
Free Trade Adjustment Committee

Ms. Diana Blenkhorn, Chairman –
Forestry Sector

Ms. Marilyn Cook

Mr. Raymond P. Cote, Co-Chairman –
Environment & Economy Committee

Mr. Gary Croswell, Chairman –
Energy Sector

Mr. John Dick, Chairman
CORE Committee

Mr. Don Downe

Mr. Donald Duncan, Chairman –
LRCC

Ms. Joanne Galley

Mr. E. C. Harris, Q.C., Chairman –
Taxation Committee

Mr. Greg Isenor, Chairman –
Mineral Resources Sector

Mr. Hector Jacques

Ms. Anne Janega
Deputy Minister
Small Business Development

Mr. Gordon Jones

Mr. Bob MacClure, Chairman –
Fisheries Sector

Mr. Alex MacDonald

Mr. Gerry Martin, Chairman –
Transportation Sector

Mr. Eric Meek

Ms. Elizabeth Mills
Executive Director
Voluntary Planning

Mr. Paul Moore, Chairman –
Tourism Sector

Mr. Murray Nicoll, Co-Chairman –
Construction Sector

Mr. Peter O'Brien

Mr. Bob Ojolick

Prof. H. R. Oldale

Mr. Arthur Sager, Chairman –
R & D Sector

Mr. Jim A. Sapp

Prof. John T. Sears

Mr. Robbie Shaw, Co-Chairman –
Environment & Economy

Ms. Elaine Sibson

Mr. Bill Skrynsky, Chairman –
Human Resources Sector

Mr. Fern Tardiff, Co-Chairman –
Construction Sector

Mr. Ronald Thomas

Mr. Gordon Tidmarsh

Mr. Ted Ueffing

Mr. Hugh B. Vincent, Chairman –
P.S.I. Sector

Ms. Sandra Whitehead

Mr. Peter Wile, Chairman –
Agriculture Sector

Ms. Heather Williams, Acting Chairman
Community Development Sector

Voluntary Planning Board Executive Committee

Mr. G. A. Amirault

Ms. Diana Blenkhorn

Mr. Don Downe

Mr. J. R. (Pat) Ellis, Vice-Chairman –
Voluntary Planning

Mr. E. C. Harris, Q.C.

Mr. Jim A. Sapp

Mr. Allan Shaw, Chairman –
Voluntary Planning

Mr. Fern Tardif

Present Staff

Elizabeth Mills	Executive Director
John MacGregor	Sector Coordinator
Peggy Tibbo-Cameron	Sector Coordinator
Sergio Greguoldo	Sector Coordinator
Tony Lamport	Communications Coordinator
Ruby Watson	Senior Secretary

Staff who left during the year

Carol MacCulloch	Sector Coordinator
Janet MacLennan	Secretary